

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A NEW SHREW FROM NOVA SCOTIA.

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In the process of a monographic revision of the American Soricidae, being made for the U. S. Biological Survey, it becomes necessary to name an unrecognized form of the *Sorex fumeus* group. It may be known by the following diagnosis:

***Sorex fumeus umbrosus*, subsp. nov.**

Type-specimen.—Adult ♂, skin and skull, No. 150,065, U. S. National Museum. Biological Survey Collection; from James River, Antigonish County, Nova Scotia; collected July 29, 1907, by W. H. Osgood. Original number 3140.

Geographic range.—Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, southeastern Quebec and Maine.

General characters.—Similar to *Sorex fumeus fumeus* but averaging slightly larger, and in summer pelage distinctly less reddish brown (more grayish) on upperparts.

Color.—*Winter pelage*: Distinctly grayish. Upperparts in general effect either mouse gray* or deep mouse gray, more or less finely flecked with whitish hair-tips. Underparts a trifle paler than upperparts, mouse gray, frequently silvery in certain lights. Tail distinctly bicolor, fuscous above, chamois or honey yellow below nearly to tip; feet and tarsi chamois, the outer edges dusky. *Summer pelage*: Brown of the upperparts noticeably less reddish than in *S. f. fumeus*. Upperparts fuscous-black mixed with grayish; underparts drab mixed with deep neutral gray of base of hairs; tail bicolor, fuscous-black above, honey yellow, cinnamon-buff, or chamois below nearly to tip; feet and tarsi as in winter.

Skull.—Similar to that of *S. f. fumeus*, possibly averaging slightly larger. Medium in size, relatively short and broad, with short rostrum, and relatively short and broad interorbital region; braincase moderately flattened; infraorbital foramen large and placed well back; dentition

* Ridgway, R., Color standards and color nomenclature, 1912.

moderately heavy, molariform teeth rather deeply emarginate posteriorly; third unicuspid larger than fourth.

Measurements.—Type (adult male): Total length, 127; tail vertebrae, 52; hind foot, 14. *Skull*: Type (adult male; teeth slightly worn): Condylbasal length, 24.0; palatal length, 7.2; breadth of cranium, 9.3; interorbital breadth, 3.9; maxillary breadth, 5.3; maxillary tooth row (anterior edge of second upper incisor to posterior edge of last upper molar measured at alveolar border), 6.8.

Remarks.—Specimens typically representative of *S. f. umbrosus* have been examined only from Nova Scotia and the coast region of New Brunswick (Hampton). Intergradation with *S. f. fumeus* is indicated in specimens of *umbrosus* from Maine and western New Brunswick, while certain specimens referred to the subspecies *fumeus* from New Hampshire, Vermont, western Massachusetts, and even the Adirondacks of New York, show an approach towards *umbrosus*.